GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:51
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2016
Cleaning of Ponds to Beautify Tourist Spots
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Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any project for cleaning and desilting of ponds and drains for the beautification of tourist spots;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and
(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide facilities and security to the domestic and foreign tourists?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (c): Formulation of project under tourism sector including that for cleaning and desilting of ponds and drains for the beautification of tourist spots is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to them for such tourism projects subject to receipt of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), adherence of existing scheme guidelines, availability of funds and liquidation of utilisation certificates for funds released earlier.

(d): The following steps have been taken by the Government to provide facilities and security to the domestic and foreign tourists:-

(i) The Ministry of Tourism has launched the 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline in 12 Languages including 10 international languages and in Hindi & English on 8.2.2016. This service is available on the toll free number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363 and operational 24X7 in a year offering a "multi-lingual helpdesk" in the designated languages to provide support service in terms of providing information relating to Travel & Tourism in India to the domestic and International tourists and to assist the callers with advice on action to be taken during times of distress while travelling in India and if need be alert the concerned authorities. The languages handled by the Tourist Helpline include ten International languages besides English and Hindi, namely, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The calls made by tourists (both international and domestic) while in India will be free of charge.
ii) Adoption of code of conduct by the Indian travel and tourism industry for safe and honourable tourism, which contains a set of guidelines to encourage tourism activities to be undertaken with respect to basic rights like dignity, safety and freedom from exploitation of both tourists and local residents, in particular women and children.
iii) All the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and Administrators of Union Territory Administrations have been asked to take immediate effective steps for ensuring a conducive and friendly environment for all tourists and also request them to publicize the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to increase the sense of security amongst the present/prospective visitors and also to counter the negative publicity, if any.
iv) The National Tourism Ministers' Conference was convened on 18th July, 2013 and 21st August, 2014 in New Delhi which resolved that the Departments of Tourism of all States and UTs will work for ensuring the safety and security of tourists, especially women. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations of Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha have deployed Tourist Police, in one form or the other.
v) Grant of Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Tourist Facilitation and Security Organization (TFSO) on a pilot basis.
vi) In the wake of some unfortunate incidents happened in the past involving foreign tourists, Ministry of Tourism posted an advisory on its website www.incredibleindia.org.
vii) The Ministry of Tourism has launched the "Swachh Paryatan Mobile App" at 25 selected Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) monuments across the country in the first phase. Through this App., the visitors can take photographs of unclean areas and garbage and upload the same for removal by the concerned authorities, i.e. the Nodal Officers for the monuments appointed by ASI.

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